

Committee on Resources

resources.committee@mail.house.gov

[Home](#) [Press Gallery](#) [Subcommittees](#) [Issues](#) [Legislation](#) [Hearing Archives](#)

Testimony of

Mr. Isaac Akootchook

President, Kaktovik Native Village

Kaktovik, Alaska

Before the Committee on Resources

Saturday, April 5, 2003

Hearing on

H.R. 39, Arctic Coastal Plain Domestic Energy Security Act of 2003;

and

H.R. 770, Morris K. Udall Arctic Wilderness Act

My name is Isaac Akootchook. I am the Reverend at the Kaktovik Presbyterian Church. I'm 81 years old and I am a life-long resident of the North Slope of Alaska and as such have traveled by dog sled in my younger days, because that was the only mode of transportation at that time. I have served on the Kaktovik City Council and have been Mayor of Kaktovik. Currently, I am President of the Native Village of Kaktovik.

I love this land and as I have stated in the Kaktovik video, I believe that man was put on this earth to use the land. If anything happens here in our homelands; then we need to be involved. I want this place to be a useful place for my children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I wish-to speak about the land and the people and how we fit together to make this place our home. The land and the people and the animals are all important and we want to take care of this land the best way we know how.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak here in my home about the things that affect my life directly. We appreciate the chance to have our voices heard.